

# WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

## Rifle and Shotgun

In any hunt, including any-weapon seasons, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With any electronic device attached to, or incorporated on, the firearm or scope; EXCEPT scopes containing battery powered or tritium lighted reticles are allowed.
- With any firearm that, in combination with a scope, sling and/or any attachments, weighs more than 16 pounds.
- With any fully automatic firearm.
- With any shotgun using shot smaller than #00 buck.
- With any rimfire rifle, rimfire handgun, or muzzle-loading handgun, except for mountain lion.

## Short Range

In big game seasons restricted to short-range weapons, it is unlawful for hunters to use any weapon other than a muzzleloader, archery equipment, crossbow, or a shotgun using slugs or shot of size #00 buck or larger.

## Muzzleloader

### Muzzleloading Rifle or Musket

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With any muzzleloading rifle or musket that is less than .45 caliber for deer, pronghorn, or mountain lion; or is less than .50 caliber for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or black bear.

### Muzzleloader-Only Season

Any person hunting in a muzzleloader-only season, including controlled hunts, must have in possession their license with muzzleloader permit validation.

During a muzzleloader-only season, it is illegal to pursue or kill a big game animal with any firearm, muzzleloading pistol, or weapon other than a muzzleloading rifle or musket.

In addition, the muzzleloading rifle or musket must be:

- Capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.
- Equipped with only open or peep sights.
- Loaded only with loose black powder, loose Pyrodex, or other loose synthetic black powder.
- Equipped with a single or double-barrel.
- Loaded with a projectile with a diameter of no less than .010 of an inch of the bore diameter. Sabots are prohibited.
- Loaded with a patched round ball or conical non-jacketed projectile comprised wholly of lead or lead alloy.
- Equipped only with a flint, percussion cap or musket cap. 209 primers are prohibited.
- Equipped with an exposed pivoting hammer and have an exposed ignition system.

## Archery — Archery Equipment

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With arrows or bolts having broadheads measuring less than 7/8 inch in width and having a primary cutting edge less than 0.015 inch thick.
- With any bow having a peak draw weight of less than 40 pounds up to or at a draw of 28 inches.
- With an arrow wherein the broadhead does not precede shaft and nock.
- With any chemicals or explosives attached to the arrow or bolt.
- With arrows or bolts having expanding broadheads.
- With arrows or bolts having barbed broadheads. A barbed broadhead is a broadhead that has any portion of the broadhead forming an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft or ferrule.
- With any electronic or tritium-powered device attached to an arrow or bow.
- With any bow capable of shooting more than one arrow at a time.
- With any compound bow set at more than 85% let-off.
- With an arrow or bolt, and broadhead with a combined total weight of less than 300 grains.
- With an arrow less than 24 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.
- With a bolt (crossbow) less than 12 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

### Archery-Only Season

Any person hunting in an archery-only season, including controlled hunts, must have in possession their license with archery permit validation. During an archery-only season, it is illegal for hunters to use any firearm, crossbow, or implement other than a longbow, compound bow, or recurve bow, or:

- Use any bow equipped with magnifying sights.
- Use any device that holds a bow at partial or full draw. EXCEPT handicapped hunters possessing a permit may use a device that holds a bow at partial or full draw. (Applications for the use of devices holding a bow at partial or full draw by handicapped hunters are available at IDFG offices).
- EXCEPT handicapped hunters possessing a permit may use a crossbow. (Applications for the use of crossbows by handicapped hunters are available at IDFG offices).

## Dogs

Dogs may be used to take or pursue black bear and mountain lion in some seasons. See the pages for those species. Dogs may not be used to take or pursue any other big game species.

Any dog found running at large and actively tracking, pursuing, harassing, attacking, or killing any big game animal EXCEPT black bear and mountain lion may be destroyed without criminal or civil liability by the director, any peace

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officer, or other persons authorized to enforce Idaho wildlife laws.

**Special Vehicle Restrictions:** State and federal agencies and private landowners have established road closures in key big game areas to protect deer and elk populations. Please check with regional IDFG, Forest Service, or Bureau of Land Management offices for information regarding vehicle restrictions on roads, trails, and unroaded areas.

**Waste of Game:** Hunters are required to remove and care for the edible meat of big game animals, except mountain lion. This includes the meat of the front quarters as far down as the knee, hindquarters as far down as the hock, neck meat, meat along the backbone, and meat covering the ribs. It does not include meat of the head, internal organs, or meat on the bones after close trimming.

**Wounding and Retrieving:** No person shall wound or kill any big game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession.

**Electronic Calls:** No electronic calls may be used to attract big game for the purpose of harvest EXCEPT such calls may be used to attract mountain lions in Big Game Units 41, 42, and 12.

## REMINDER: General Wildlife Laws

### It is Unlawful

- To hunt on cultivated or posted private lands without permission. See Trespass Law, page 14.
- To hunt or take any wildlife without a valid hunting license on your person.
- To take any game without the proper tag or permit.
- To cause or allow the waste of meat from any game animal, except a mountain lion. See "Waste of Game," page 13.
- To party hunt, or help fill another hunter's bag.
- To shoot from or across the traveled portion, shoulders, or embankments of any road maintained by any government entity.
- To hunt game from any motorized vehicle, EXCEPT for holders of a valid handicapped person's Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit.
- To operate any vehicle in an area designated as closed for that specific vehicle type.
- To use aircraft to locate game and communicate location to persons on the ground, or to use any helicopter to transport hunters, gear, or game except at established landing fields.
- To fail to stop and report at any game check station encountered on your route of travel, even if your hunting activity occurred outside the state of Idaho.
- To fail to produce wildlife in possession for inspection upon request of a conservation officer or other person authorized to enforce IDFG laws.
- To hunt any game species with the aid of artificial light except raccoons. See furbearer rules in Upland Game Seasons brochure.
- To hunt big game with dogs except for black bear and mountain lion. See bear and mountain lion sections for details.
- To transfer any license, tag, or permit or use another's license, tag, or permit.
- To acquire more controlled hunt permits or tags per species than that species' bag limit.

- To destroy or disturb traps, or remove any wildlife from traps belonging to others.
- To enter Idaho with livestock without a health certificate for transport and a brand inspection slip.
- To intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife or lawful predator control by another.
- To hunt any game animal by means of baiting with grain, salt in any form (liquid or solid), or any other substance (not to include liquid scents) to constitute an attraction or enticement, with the exception of applicable rules for the black bear baiting permit.

**Trespass Law:** No person may enter private land to hunt, fish or trap without permission if the land is either cultivated or posted with legible "No Trespassing" signs. Proper posting means either signs, 100 square inches of fluorescent orange paint, or an entire fluorescent orange metal fence post every 660 feet around the property and at reasonable access points. It is unlawful for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease. Conviction of trespass on posted private property carries a mandatory one-year revocation of hunting/fishing/trapping licenses.

Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing, or trapping purposes.

CPR lands are considered cultivated private fields.

## MOTORIZED VEHICLE RESTRICTION RULE

The Fish and Game Commission has implemented restrictions for motor vehicle use while hunting to address many sportsmen's concerns about off-road travel. The restricted units are: 29, 30, 30A, 32, 32A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 58, 59, 59A, 66, 69, 70, 72 (late season), 73, 75, 77, and 78.

The rule is found at IDAPA 13.01.08.411. The rule reads:

### **411. Motorized Vehicle Use Restrictions.**

The use of motorized vehicles by hunters as an aid to hunting big game is restricted in certain areas. This use restriction is in addition to all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders; including, but not limited to, any motorized vehicle licensing, registration, and permitting requirements and traffic laws. Hunters must comply with all motorized vehicle limits or prohibitions instituted by the landowner or land manager. Also, this use restriction rule is not an exception from, and is in addition to, the statutory prohibition against hunting from or by the use of any motorized vehicle set forth in Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

**01. Use Restriction.** In designated areas and hunts, hunters may only use motorized vehicles on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. Any other use by hunters is prohibited. All off-road use by hunters is prohibited.

**02. Exceptions.** This use restriction rule shall not apply to the following permissible motorized vehicle uses:

- a. Holders of a valid Handicapped Persons Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit may use a motorized vehicle as allowed by the land owner or manager.
- b. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager.

- c. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to pack camping equipment in or out if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager; however, hunters shall not hunt while packing camping equipment.
- d. Private landowners, their authorized agents and persons with written landowner permission may use a motorized vehicle on their private land; however, they may not hunt from or by the use of any motorized vehicle as prohibited by Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

**03. Restricted Areas and Hunts.** This motorized vehicle use restriction shall apply to identified areas and hunts in all Big Game Management Units. The hunts and areas with a motorized vehicle use restriction are identified in the Commission's Big Game Season Proclamation, which is published in a brochure available at department offices and license vendors.

### **04. Defined Terms.**

- a. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross weight in excess of one thousand five hundred (1,500) pounds.
- b. An established roadway shall be defined as any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any governmental entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the wheel tracks.
- c. A hunter shall be defined as a person engaged in the activity of hunting as defined in Idaho Code Section 36-202(j).